

What's the purpose of the Water Project? Find out on page 2.



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Dordt College

27 September 2012

Issue 2

## New year, new president, new goals for Dordt College

Rachel Mulder  
Staff Writer

Dr. Erik Hoekstra just began his new role as President of Dordt College, and is already busy meeting, greeting, and getting involved in the college.

One thing President Hoekstra does when he is on campus that isn't in the job description is to eat in the Commons, in order to get to know the student body personally.

"I want to get to know students. There are 1,400 of you and I won't always remember names, but I really do want to know students, their families, and their stories," said Hoekstra.

Although Dordt has a multi-generational reputation, which Hoekstra appreciates and will continue to focus on, he wants to broaden Dordt's base.

Hoekstra is constantly working on raising awareness of this college, especially for financial and prayer support. There are many people from denominations other than the Christian Reformed tradition who haven't heard of Dordt, so he's working on sharing Dordt's story with them.

"[Dordt is] such a great

place, so we're going to tell more people about it; we are going to tell the story to more people," said Hoekstra.

Hoekstra also wants to work on making Dordt even more distinctively Christian, instead of watering-down Dordt's Christian perspective.

"We aren't excellent for our own glory, but because God's done a great thing through Christ, we need to live in thankfulness and do it awesome," Hoekstra said.

Hoekstra believes the CORE program is the heart of Dordt, because "it's a framework for living, life, and thinking that all fits together."

Expanding the science building is a big project that is on Hoekstra's mind. Dordt is close to meeting its financial goal, and the college hopes to break ground next summer.

Hoekstra believes that a college education from Dordt is invaluable, so he works hard every day to raise money for scholarships. Vision 20/20 just ended, but another large campaign may take place in the future.

The daily tasks of a president include traveling to var-



Photo by Anna Stadem

ious states and schools, interviewing potential employees, and receiving reports from departments to make sure things are running smoothly.

Currently Hoekstra is traveling to hold "Meet the President" events, where he tells people what is going on at Dordt and reminds them to support Dordt financially and prayerfully. He has visited Omaha, Ne.; Sheldon, Iowa; Mt. Vernon, Wash. and visited Denver, Colo. this week.

Presidential status wasn't

a goal of Hoekstra's, but he was able to imagine it. His father was president of Trinity Christian College when he was a child, and while he was in college, his father-in-law was Trinity's president.

"[Becoming president] wasn't a goal to shoot for, but I have always been interested in leadership and where I can help out in organizations, so this seemed like where I could help out," said Hoekstra.

Hoekstra's family has

been surrounded by Dordt for many years. After moving to Sioux Center in 1997, Hoekstra worked at Dordt for three years, in town for nine years, and then at Dordt again as Provost of the college.

"Our lives have always been intertwined with Dordt ever since we moved here, and we love it," said Hoekstra.

Look forward to the inauguration of President Hoekstra, the fourth president of Dordt College, on Oct. 19.

## Attempted abductions in Sioux County raise "Stranger Danger" awareness



Photo by Anna Stadem

Danielle Richards  
Staff Writer

The first of several "Stranger Danger" alerts, issued by Sioux County Sheriff's Department, said that a "60-70 year old man" approached grade school students in Spencer, Iowa, in an attempt to abduct them. This and other recent suspicious activity in

and around Sioux County has raised the eyebrows of community member and students alike.

The news of such suspicious activity reached Dordt by way of a bulletin sent by Interim Dean of Campus Life, Robert Taylor. Since this announcement, no one has been arrested or apprehended for attempted abduction in the

Sioux County area.

Although there have been no arrests for this crime as of yet, the Sioux County Police Department has been "doing their best to catch this guy," said Jack Brundell, a part-time police officer at the Sioux County Police Department and recent graduate of Dordt College.

"It is really hard now because everyone is so alert that people think they see [him] everywhere," Brundell explained. "In one day there are reports of this man being spotted in one end of the county one minute, and then at the other end the next minute. We at the Sioux Center police department take this matter very seriously and take every report of this man seriously as well."

Because so many residents are aware of these reports, several false spottings and accusations have occurred. On September 12, police were

falsely informed that a teenager had been abducted in Lyon County. Similarly, on September 20, a grade school teacher in Lyon County noticed a vehicle matching the suspicious driver's vehicle description leaving the grade school parking lot. A few hours later police reported that the vehicle spotted had been "a grandparent dropping a grandson off at the school."

Dordt students have had mixed reactions to the bulletin. "I was definitely surprised," said senior Jonny Grotenhuis, a business administration major. "I wasn't expecting to hear something like that. [It was] especially sketchy because it happened in several different towns."

Like Grotenhuis, most students were concerned about the events because of the conservative nature of northwest Iowa. Some students, however, were not as surprised.

"I understand that it is a dangerous and sad situation," said senior Kyra Kats, psychology major. "[I know] we have to be careful of this creeper, but coming from a big city, this happens all the time. The amount of awareness that has been raised because of this situation goes to show just how small a town we are in."

Because of these recent events, parents and law enforcement alike have stressed public safety for both children and adults. Almost every police report concerning these suspicious encounters have "stranger danger" tips for adults to pass on to children. Sheriff Dan Altena suggests not to linger in isolated areas and to be aware of the vehicles around you.

Further information about the attempted abductions can be found on [www.siouxcountysheriff.com](http://www.siouxcountysheriff.com).



## "Water Project": Not about saving water?

Kelly Zatlin  
Head Editor

The question, "What is the purpose of the Water Project?" seems to be flurrying around the campus recently, as 475 students from a variety of different courses are required to participate in the project. The "Water Project" is more about students learning to work together while applying their specific area of study to a similar problem, rather than to find a Nobel Peace Prize winning solution to the world's global water problem.

Professor Nathan Tintle, statistics professor and the faculty leadership representative for this challenge, explained that this project has little to do with water. While he recognizes water as an important issue around the world, it is merely the topic of this mass-group project.

"You know, it's funny, this project has been dubbed 'the Water Project' -- but it really has almost nothing to do with water... We designed most of this entire project before we decided the focus would be on water. Water is really only a vehicle to accomplish some other really important stuff," said Tintle.

The idea for a project like this came about when several professors, Dr. Tintle being one of them, became concerned that students were not given the opportunity to apply their majors to differ-

ent disciplines.

"Our fear is that when all you experience in our classes is that single discipline, you miss out on learning how to solve real problems, which are messy and hard and, most importantly, are going to require you to interact with, talk with, and work with a bunch of people who don't think like you," said Tintle.

Professor Tony Jelsma, who is faculty representative for Biology, has the same sentiments. "The whole idea behind it is to get students thinking outside their specific course and realizing that life's problems are really a lot broader than simply their course-related thing. It's a different type of pedagogy."

On Monday, September 17, about 475 students gathered together in the B.J. Haan auditorium for the kick-off of the Water Project. Tim Dekker, an engineer and water consultant from Michigan, was the main speaker for the event.

Dekker's presentation, titled "Just, Equitable, and Sustainable Access to Clean Water," dealt with many of the contributing factors that have an impact on the world's water problem. A few of those contributing factors are population growth, climate, energy, and geopolitics.

While some students who attended the mass meeting were "tweeting" and "hashtagging" reasons for

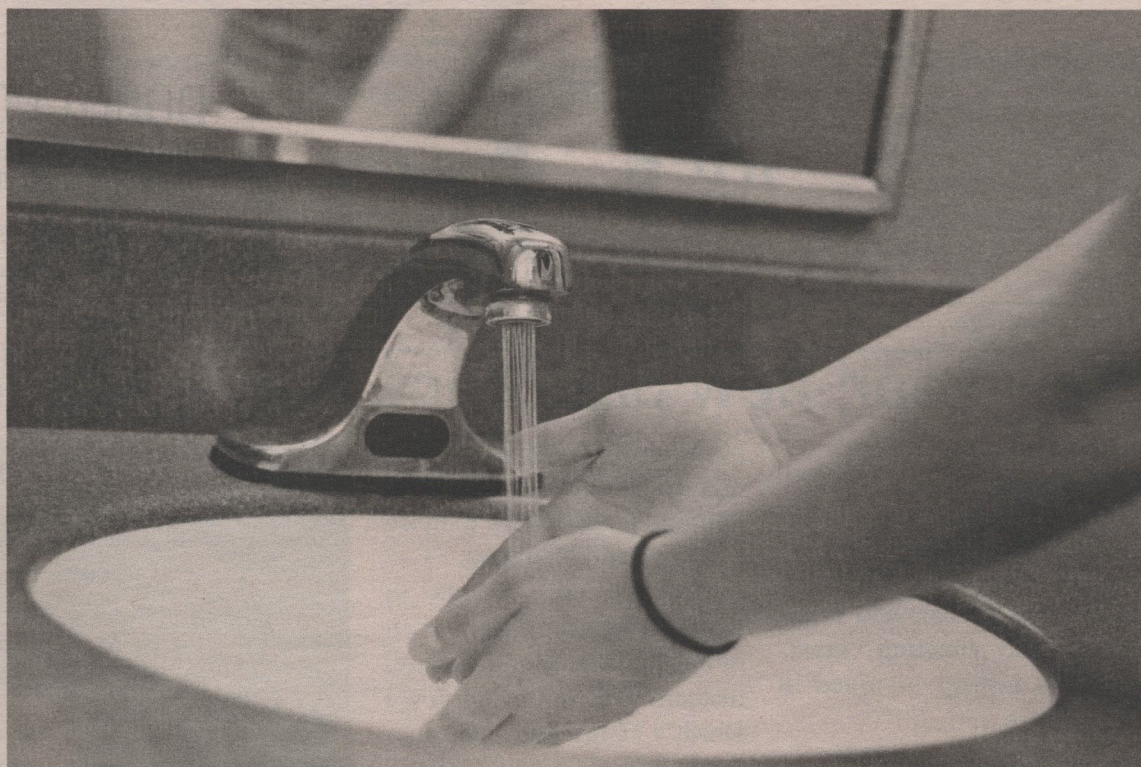


Photo by Aanna Stadem

why they opposed participating in the water project, some students were slightly more willing to become a part of the issue.

Student Herman Hofman, who has to be a part of the water project for his Food Science course, said "I think the water project is an educational opportunity for students to develop problem solving skills while working with students from different backgrounds and perspectives."

Hofman did, however, see the project as a sort of marketing tool for Dordt. "It'll be a great opportunity for Dordt College to market

itself and it will definitely look good on professors' resumes to have been involved in a project like this. Not that there is anything wrong with this, I mean it's good economics."

The professors in charge of this project want students to know that this is not extra work in addition to their course, despite popular belief, but that it takes the place of term papers and research projects that they would typically be doing.

"I don't really see this as 'extra' work; it is part of the course you are taking," said Tintle. "I can't underscore that enough; this is part of a

course that you are enrolled in—the professor is requiring it."

Though it's not necessarily expected that students will solve the entire global water problem, the professors do expect good to come from it, whether that is spreading plausible ideas across the globe, or learning how to work with others in different fields of study.

"We must learn to communicate with the person who has a different disciplinary background or life experience than us if we're really going to make a difference [in] whatever we are called to do; again, not 'just water' here," said Tintle.

## Science and Classroom Buildings to unite

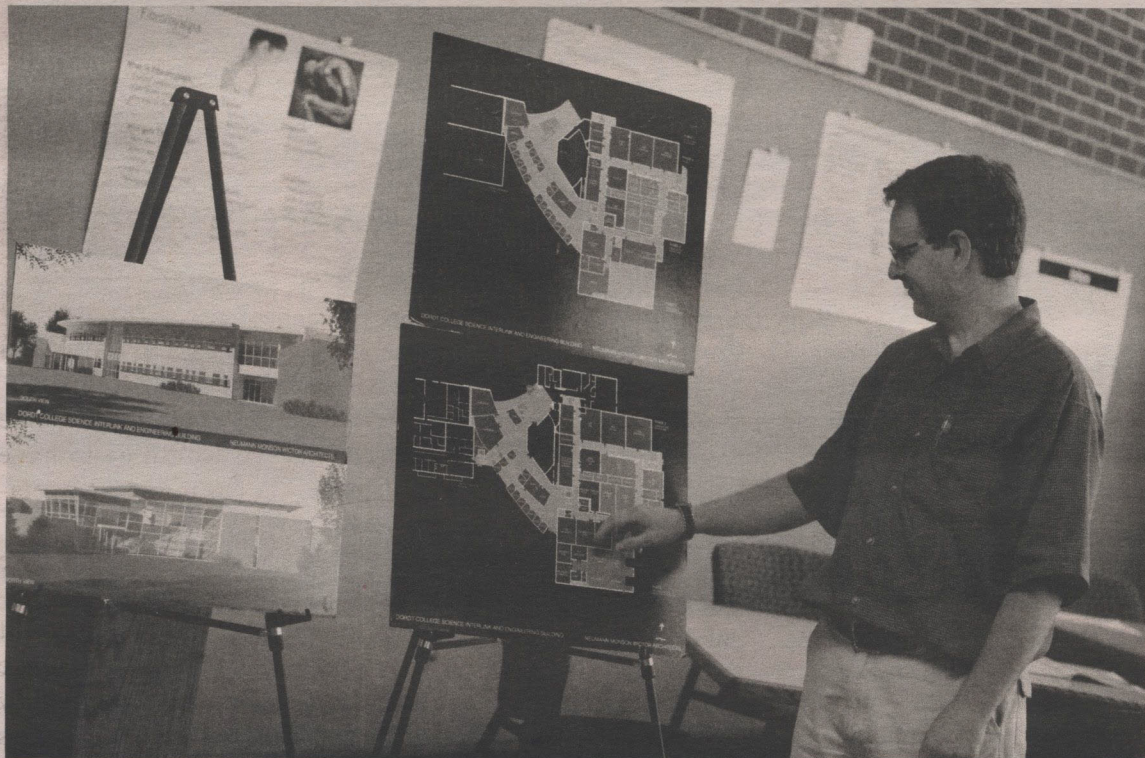


Photo by Aanna Stadem

Adam McDonald  
Co-Editor

The Science Building will begin major renovations starting in the spring of 2013, and while the building has had minor renovations since its completion in 1979, the next project will fundamen-

tally transform the layout of the campus by joining the Classroom and Science Building together.

"The first step is to change the way we think of science with geography by ending our isolation (in the building). Many people think 'here are the sciences. This is where

science is done,'" Ethan Brue, a professor of engineering said. "You need to be more than a scientist in today's society. You need to communicate and be a writer too. The days of the science nerd are done. We need to be broader."

Renovations are taking place because the five

major sciences at Dordt, engineering, nursing, agriculture, chemistry, and math, have doubled in size. Despite the growth of the departments, the construction plan will be executed in a way that will allow students to continue their classes without fear of losing valuable space.

The road between the science building and computer services will be torn up, allowing the two buildings to become connected. Students will be able to walk from the Classroom Building to the Science Building without stepping foot outside, which will be a good thing come winter.

"The project will start, hopefully, next spring. You will see some people start working during the school year, but it will pick up once students leave," said Brue. "We are still trying to get a final design cost, but we do have the architectural cost of the project: \$9 million, but that's a rough value."

There are three phases for the project. Phase one will include the two story connection between the Classroom building and the Science Building. The major spot that will be under construction during this phase will be SB 101 which may be closed for a semester. The second and third phases will primarily affect the lab areas.

"Once Phase One is over, we want to move right into Phase Two and Three, which can be tricky with labs. We need to do it as fast as we can in the summer, but it might take longer," said Brue. "I'm more than optimistic that excitement will flow during the second and third phase."

Phase One will take about 18 months to complete. While Phase One is being completed, nothing will change for students except for activities in S101.



## Dordt College lives up to its “matchmaker” reputation yet again

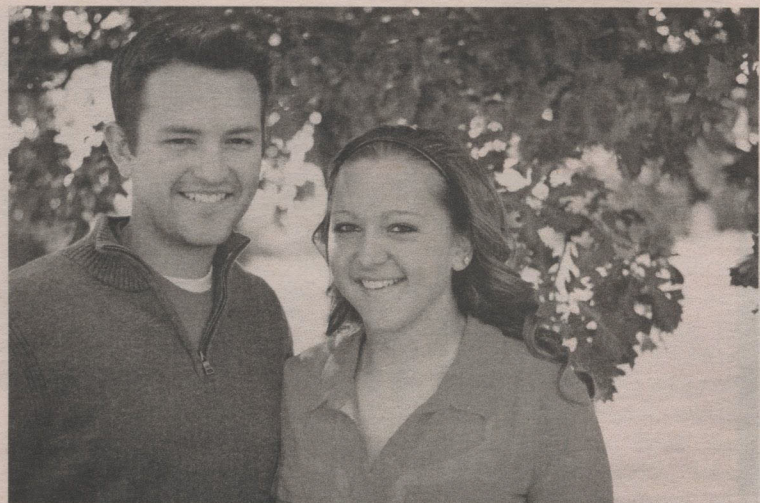


Photo by Aanna Stadem

**Kristin Janssen**  
Staff Writer

Not only does Dordt have a “ring by spring” reputation within its walls, but it has been dubbed as one of the top “Matchmaker Colleges” by CollegeXpress, a college searching resource tool. The ranking described Dordt and other so-called romantic colleges, as “schools where students find love.”

Although specific statistics about Dordt’s current number of engaged students will not be available until second semester, anyone with a connection to Dordt can testify to the fact that many students find their future spouse within the Dordt community. Most engagements happen after the sophomore and junior years of college, although smaller

amounts of proposals even occur during and after the freshmen year of college.

Some of these engagements occur between high school sweethearts, but the vast majority of those who marry a fellow Dordt graduate met their spouse while at Dordt.

Many of the engagements between Dordt students also occur on Dordt’s campus, possibly because the location holds sentimental value, from the couple’s first Dordt walk through the prairie to dorm room movie dates in the frigid Iowa winter.

One of the most recent couples to get engaged on Dordt’s campus is Ben DeRuiter and Alli Hogan, both juniors. DeRuiter, a Ripon, California, native and social work major, said he and

Hogan, a Denver native and sports management major, met sophomore year. Hogan quickly corrected her fiancé, saying they met freshmen year, but didn’t start hanging out until sophomore year.

Regardless of the newly engaged couples’ first meeting, the two dated for about 11 months before DeRuiter popped the question one Monday night earlier this month, in an extravagant proposal that the campus, and especially Hogan, won’t forget.

Perhaps DeRuiter felt he needed to propose in an especially elaborate way to make up for the couple’s first date, which consisted of dinner at Outback Steakhouse and watching Goldmember. DeRuiter’s opinion of the night was that it wasn’t “a romantic night, but oh well.” Hogan agreed, “It wasn’t anything grand.”

However, describing the proposal, Hogan had a different opinion: “Whoever gets engaged next better step up their idea because that [DeRuiter’s proposal] was really good in my opinion, but maybe that’s because it was for me.” So what was this bar-setting proposal?

If you missed all of the commotion behind Southview and East of Kuyper that Monday night, you missed out on a chaotic scene of setup and a breath-takingly

adorable proposal, followed by pounding on Kuyper windows, crowds of friends rushing in for hugs, and even a small fireworks display, lighting up the sky over Southview’s greenspace.

DeRuiter said the proposal was a combination of ideas from his mom, sister, and friends, but had been brewing since July. The diamond ring came from Hogan’s grandma, so DeRuiter had bought the setting in California and brought it back to Iowa to get it set. Several hours of preparation were put in by DeRuiter and Hogan’s friends the night of the grand proposal.

Hogan, on the other hand, was clueless. “I honestly had no idea,” Hogan said. “I was doing homework in my room, and everybody else knew.”

While Hogan was working on her homework, some of DeRuiter’s friends burst into her Southview apartment, demanding she peer-edit one of their papers. Instead of presenting a paper, though, the friends played a Youtube video for Hogan. The video was a remake of “God Gave Me You,” created and recorded by a few more of DeRuiter’s friends.

DeRuiter’s friends also had “I love you” printed in Dutch on the back of their shirts, a phrase DeRuiter frequently texted Hogan. When

she noticed their shirts, Hogan said, “I knew something must be up.”

When the song finished playing, DeRuiter’s friends told Hogan to look out her window. Hogan looked and was shocked to see DeRuiter standing in the middle of a huge heart made up of over 500 Styrofoam cups with glow sticks. In the middle of the heart, the cups spelled out, “Be my 4ever.”

Hogan quickly left Southview, only to find dozens of students and friends crowding around the building, waiting for her entrance. She met DeRuiter in the center of the Styrofoam-cup heart, and he “did his thing and got down on one knee,” said Hogan.

Hogan said yes. DeRuiter says, “It was worth it,” and the couple now joins the long list of engaged couples at Dordt.

So if you’re a student at Dordt and currently single, or at least not engaged yet, don’t lose hope. Be encouraged by DeRuiter and Hogan’s story, and know that your future Mrs. or Mr. might have passed you on the sidewalk this morning. And if you graduate without that special someone by your side, remember that Dordt’s not the only place “where students find love.”

## Do students notice the changes in The Commons?

**Lauren Bird**  
Staff Writer

Though the Dordt College Commons has two new co-owners this year who are changing some things up and taking on new responsibilities, some students have yet to recognize any changes from previous years.

Jeremy VanDenBerg and Mike Ochsner have taken over the business of running the Commons. Both men are Dordt graduates and had plenty of experi-

ence working in the Commons when they were students at Dordt.

VanDenBerg, known to many simply as “Jer,” had been a partner in the business for the past three years, mainly managing the financial aspects of the business. However, when the past owner decided to move on, VanDenBerg stepped up to the plate and took over managing the food quality and preparation. Ochsner, his partner, is now in charge of the fi-

nances. Both feel that God is leading them down this path of service.

“It’s my calling,” VanDenBerg said. “It’s easy to get up in the morning and go to work. I really enjoy it.”

As a result of the new management, several changes have been made in the Commons. The main change is the food they serve on Friday nights. The menu is now one that VanDenBerg calls “things you’d find if you went out



Photo by Aanna Stadem

to eat.” This includes having wings, ribs, pizza, and turkey legs for students.

“We’re trying to have more variety and we’re trying new things this year,” VanDenBerg said.

They are also in charge of the Defender Grille. They decided to open the Grille earlier than in past years to appeal to upperclassmen and people involved in sports and fine arts programs.

Most students tend to be happy with the changes that have been made this year. Sophomore Elizabeth Riley said, “I like that they’re trying new things and I’ve noticed they’ve set things differently, too. The

only thing I would change if I could would be to have fresher fruits and vegetables.”

Sophomore Sam DeGroot has a different opinion. “I feel as though it hasn’t really changed,” DeGroot said, “What they do in the Commons works though.”

If any other students have opinions they’d like to share, VanDenBerg and Ochsner would like the student body to know that they have an open-door policy. “We like hearing from students,” VanDenBerg said, “We want to be approached and we want to hear both positive and negative comments.”

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# Features

## Dordt is the start of a new chapter for freshmen

Kristina Heflin  
Staff Writer

*For many students at Dordt, the beginning of this semester was nothing truly special. They returned to classes and reunited with friends that were missed all summer, but no huge surprises were waiting when upon arrival. However, for a few hundred freshmen, this fall marked the beginning of a new life adventure. From leaving home for the first time, to adjusting to commons food, to realizing that an entire class hinges on two exams and a 13 page paper – there's a lot of adjusting going on. This week, some of Dordt's newest faces were interviewed to get a fresh perspective on this old institution so many know and love.*



**Name:** Felicia Schaap  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Extracurricular Activities:** Volleyball  
**From:** Chicago, Ill

"I really love GIFT and Praise and Worship and how many opportunities there are for that. I was also surprised by how friendly everyone is...I'm from Chicago, and that's not how it is. My roommate and I went potluck, and we get along so well; it's amazing how well we get along...we're like sisters practically, and we've only known each other a month. I do miss pizza, though. Chicago style. But it's good to get away and be on your own. It's a good opportunity for me."



**Name:** Kassidy Van Voorst  
**Major:** Exercise Science  
**Extracurricular Activities:** Volleyball & Softball  
**From:** Hull, Iowa

"Dordt was my very last choice (for college). I hated hearing about 'Dordt warts.' After basketball season of my senior year though, (Dordt volleyball coach) Chad Henson came up and talked to me. At that point I had no idea what I wanted to do. I really liked the college visit though, and I had that feeling that this where I was supposed to be – and now I'm here. I love that you get to meet new people, because in high school you just had your friends and knew everyone. But I hate writing so many papers...you get sick of it."

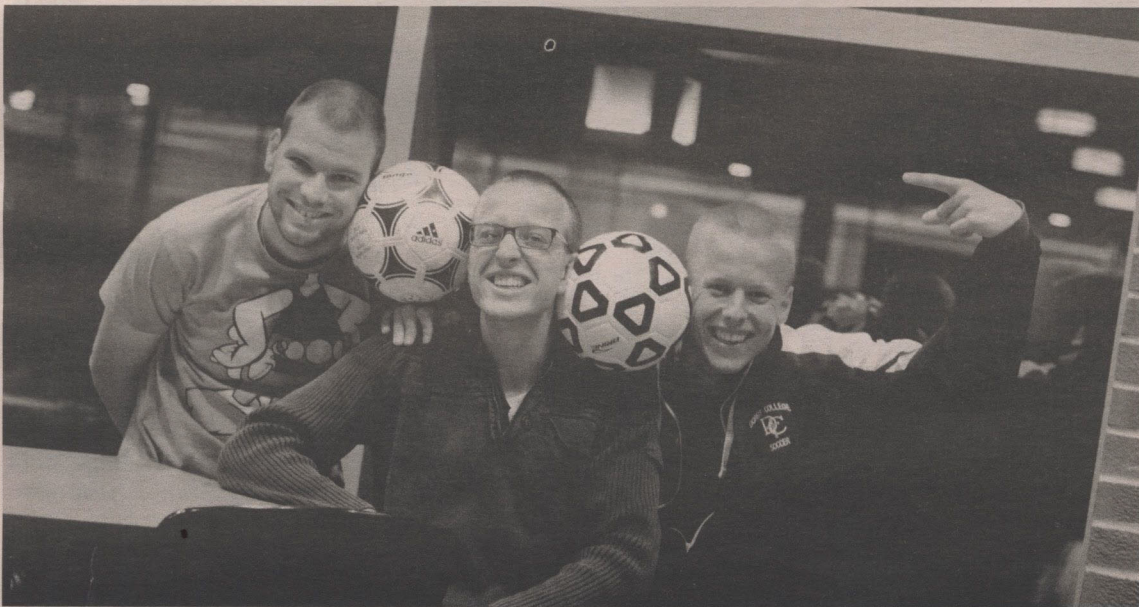


**Name:** Heidi Tubergen  
**Major:** Speech Pathology  
**Extracurricular Activities:** Job at Fareway  
**From:** Doone, Iowa

"I really love working with kids. All through high school I babysat every weekend. I love working with kids; that kind of made my decision...to be a speech pathologist. I decided on Dordt a month before school started. Otherwise I was going to Liberty University in Virginia. Being so far from home though, I decided it wouldn't be best. Sometimes I wish I went to Liberty, but I think it's going pretty well here. I love how friendly everybody is. I really enjoy Praise and Worship, chapels, and GIFT. I even really like my math class a lot."

## International Introduction: Netherlands Style

*For years, international students have felt blessed to call Dordt home. However, language, other cultural barriers, and even apathy, often prevent these students from being warmly welcomed into the Dordt student community. In this new feature section, we hope to introduce the Dordt community to a different international student each week with the hope of bridging the gap between international and non-international students that is often so evident around campus. Finally, it is our hope that this section will remind the community of God's call to have a heart for ALL of His nations.*



Kristin Janssen  
Staff Writer

If you've ever wanted to live in a musical, then spend some time around the international students from the Netherlands. You'll probably feel like your dreams are coming true. Tom Lukas, Gerald Oudman, and Johan Ribberink are all students at Dordt for part of this semester. Oudman, a 22-year-old from Zwolle, said he (and his two traveling companions) especially enjoy singing. "We love to sing. When the last few words or phrases of a sentence remind us of a song,

we sing! That's what we do!" shared Oudman. Lukas agreed, "That's what our lives are based on."

Besides musically entertaining Dordt's campus this semester, Lukas and Ribberink are studying education for a couple of months. Oudman is planning on completing his student teaching at Sioux Center Christian after the exchange program ends.

Ribberink, 20-years-old and from Meppel, decided to study at Dordt because he wanted the "campus experience," and simply thought it would be fun. Lukas agreed that the campus experience is

*Photo by Anna Stadem*

enjoyable. "Everybody lives on campus," he said, "that's something I like most. You can hang out with everybody all the time. You don't have to go somewhere far away, like Never Never Land." Lukas and Oudman echoed similar feelings. All three are elementary education majors, and all thought gaining international teaching experience would be beneficial.

Oudman's decision to move to Sioux Center is a little more complicated than Lukas' and Ribberink's. When asked why he came to Dordt to study, Oudman replied, "Lexi, duh." Lukas

and Ribberink laughed and agreed.

Two years ago Oudman met Lexi Elgersma, now a Dordt graduate and teacher at Sioux Falls Christian, when she was on the SPICE program in the Netherlands. Elgersma is the youngest daughter of Dordt's English professor Bill Elgersma. Although all three exchange students currently live in Dordt's undergraduate dormitories, Oudman will stay with the Elgersma family during his student teaching.

Besides girls and teaching experiences, the three Dutch students appreciate additional things about being at Dordt. All three are enjoying the social aspect of campus. If you haven't met them on campus, you probably haven't spent enough nights in 55th Avenue, one of their favorite places to socialize. Oudman can also be found joining the Dordt soccer team at practice every day, and Ribberink and Lukas joined an intramural soccer team last week.

Sports are definitely something the three students enjoy about life at Dordt College, but bicycling is one that has had its challenges for Oudman. "The seat of my bicycle

disappeared," he shared. "I guess someone stole it or is trying to be funny, but it isn't funny." For now, Oudman joins Ribberink and Lukas riding around Sioux Center with no bicycle seat.

The three musical exchange students also miss certain Dutch foods. "I miss my chocolate sprinkles," said Ribberink, "Casey's Bakery has them, but they are just so expensive." Oudman's least favorite part about Dordt is the commons, "but that's pretty obvious," he added.

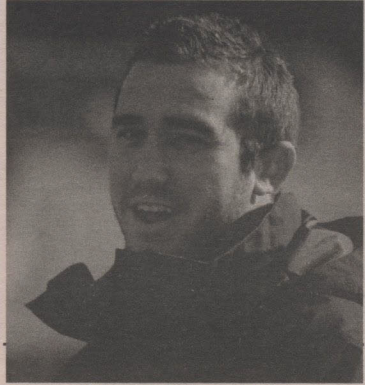
In addition to missing seats and sprinkles, Ribberink and Lukas think the classes are difficult to enjoy because the level seems too low for them. Although they believe this may be because they are seniors at home, they also find it strange that freshmen through seniors may be in some of their courses.

Overall, Lukas, Oudman, and Ribberink are enjoying their time at Dordt. They find the community friendly, free refills enjoyable, and encourage the rest of campus to welcome them by simply saying hello and asking them about their culture.



# Opinion

## A Modest Suggestion



**Ryan Lapadula**  
Columnist

*BBQ: Stemming from the word "barbacoa" in the West Indies. It means to cook meat over an open flame. Therefore, for you sticklers out there, in this article the words "BBQ" and "grilling" are synonymous.*

Well, summer is dwindling and everyone can practically hear the snow laughing mischievously as it approaches. It seems that this is about the time when the majority of students tend to wane their outdoor activities as if bracing for winter. STOP IT!

To soak up the final remnants of summer, some girls are going to go lie on the grass and read magazines in short-shorts and tanks just to make their presence known to the males. And the dudes will be out behind Southview and Kuyper playing Ultimate Frisbee with their shirts off—failing to gain an ounce of attention from the women.

You want real community outside? I got three letters for you: BBQ. There is no better way to enjoy the last moments of warmth like being outside while cooking meat over an open flame. Food brings people together—Fact. Meat tastes better when it has been cooked by fire—Fact. And dudes, put your shirts back on because showing the ladies that you can BBQ will get you all the attention you can handle—FACT!

With BBQ, you can be close to all your buds without being crowded in a kitchen. You can leave your cooking station to throw the football around or just sit back and kick it. You can eat outside, soaking in the Creation while raging all over that double-patty burger, chicken wings, ribs, or whatever you desire. Doesn't that sound better than sitting in some cookie-cutter apartment, convincing yourself that those Great Value noodles taste fine with that jarred spaghetti sauce?

What's beautiful about BBQ is that the simpler it is, the better. All you need is meat, two sides (chips and potato salad), and some drinks, and you've got yourself a party. Imagine standing at the grill—your altar—armed with a spatula or a pair of tongs, smoke licking your face and causing you to glisten with perspiration in the sun, and realizing that what you are doing at that moment is joining in on the laughter and love between friends united by food, by the sun in the sky, and by the fresh air with the perfume of smoke lingering in your nostrils.

Do it. Seriously. Get ten of your friends together and round up whatever you want to cook. It might sound like I'm joking, but I'm not. If you haven't experienced the magic that a BBQ party can create, then I truly pity you. And no, the cookouts you've had at your parents' house don't count. Put on your own cookout with your closest friends. You won't be disappointed.

## Judgment day or just a friday at Dordt?

Where: The Netherlands. When: Last semester. It's 2:30 a.m. in America. It's about 10:30 a.m. here in the Netherlands. I'm munching on some cheese and bread with nothing but saliva to wash it down—too late for coffee, too early for a beer. I watch the "Thirsty Thursday" tweets roll in as I sit in class. I experience the Dordt students YOLO stories as they get some sort of green fever and walk home saying how that was the "best one yet." Come ten hours later, the exact same students will be tweeting about their headaches and skipping class because they went "so hard."

Approach the same students in class and ask them how their Thursday night was, and I bet one of two things will happen: either they'll tell you "fine" and walk away, or they'll avoid the question completely. Why?

I'm not sure about how you were brought up, taught at Dordt College, or learned from life experiences, but in my short 21 years of life, I've learned two things about this: People are going to talk whether you're doing bad or good, and hiding who you are and what you do will hurt you and your relationships far worse than honesty will.

Explaining to my Dutch friends why they weren't allowed to post certain pictures on my Facebook was a joke to them. "So you're ashamed of what you're doing here?"



**Jennifer Van Der Hoek**  
Columnist

You're ashamed of being friends with us?" Of course I'm not ashamed; I just don't want to be judged, especially by my grandma or worse, Dordt College. Maybe this hits home for you, considering word around this joint spreads like wildfire and always seems to come back 10 times worse than reality.

It's a messed up world we live in, and here we are, pursuing various life paths, each of us longing to become stronger in our love for Christ and for others. If this is the truth we're seeking, then why are we forced to hide so much of our lives in fear of judgment and humiliation? At a place like Dordt, where so much emphasis is put on community, you'd think honesty would be appreciated a bit more than it is. In reality, a place like this, where we have to disguise so much, I'm not sure true com-

munity and fellowship is really possible. Think about it: who are your closest friends? The ones that you're afraid will condemn your life choices, or the ones who will be open and honest and love you regardless? Some of the best friends I've had were made last semester, not only because I spent so much time with them, but because I could be completely honest with them and expect the same in return, and we were in a place where we were allowed to do that. Sure, being honest isn't the easiest thing to do in life, but if you're always doing what's easiest, if you're always completely comfortable, you're doing something wrong.

I'll be the first to admit what a blast "Thirsty Thursday" is and how much I love a good beer, and I hope I won't be the last. This is where we get our hypocritical reputation. Here we are living one way, hiding it from the world, and then judging the people who are doing the same things but choosing to own up to it. What I decided last semester: people who demonstrate that unconditional love of Christ that are called to share with others aren't going to spread rumors about my life because of what they see and hear about me. And the people who are should probably take a step back and look at their own life before sharing stories they just assume about mine.

## Kids say the Darndest Things!



**Rachel Mulder**  
Columnist

*"This is good system, very good system!"*

My family is hosting a foreign exchange student and he's staying, yup, you guessed it... in my room. I've only met him once, but he was very nice, so I'm sure he'll treat my room well. His name is Eric, he's from China, and he loves to swim!

Since he loves to swim, my family got him a membership at the YMCA and he swims there almost every afternoon when school gets out. One morning, my mom reminded him that my brother Nathan would pick him up at 5:30 p.m., so he should be ready and waiting by the door.

That afternoon, Nathan arrived at the Y and Eric was not at the door. Eric doesn't have a cell phone and Nathan doesn't have a pass, so he couldn't check to see if Eric was in the locker room. Eventually, they paged him and Eric came out fifteen minutes later, amazed. "This is good system, very good system!" Eric said. Of course it was a good system, for him! Now he wouldn't have to worry about checking a clock or forgetting what time it was; they could just page him when it was time to go!

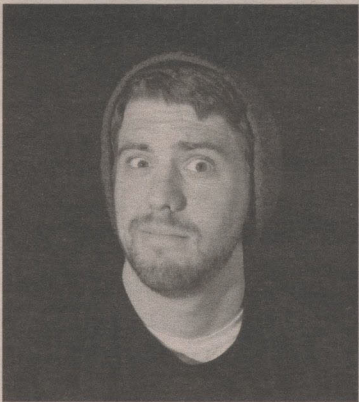
This can be applied to our relationship with God. We shouldn't page God every time we have a problem, or every time we need something...we should be connecting with him all the time. He's not a vending machine. God yearns for us to have a relationship with him and not just page him in emergency situations.

Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." God is always with us, ready to give us answers and provide us with everything we need, as long as we are willing to spend time with Him daily.

God calls on us too. In II Timothy 1:9 it says, "He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done, but because of his own purpose and grace." God has called us to do his work; we obey him by responding to that call and working to further His kingdom. And we know that God will always be with us to help and guide us.

Be in daily communication with God; he will answer when you "page."

## Trust



**Alex Updike**  
Columnist

you ever drown in my general vicinity while I'm holding a lifeguard tube.

The point of that story is this: As I was guarding the lives of young children one day, I observed a young'un, probably 3 or 4 years old, preparing to jump off the diving board. Now before you go off on some humanistic rant on why I let a 4-year-old jump off the diving board, let me tell you that his dad was waiting for him in the pool. In fact, his dad is really the fulcrum on which this entire story balances. You see, this little guy moseyed up to the edge, took a couple practice bounces, and just jumped right off that diving board into the arms of his waiting father. And once he got to his dad, he was NOT going to let go of him. As I sat there, watching this progress and ignoring the other swimmers/potential

drowners, I noticed how this young child gripped his dad, knowing, without a doubt in his mind, that his dad was going to keep him safe. In an unknown, scary position, this young child held on to what he knew would keep his head above water—what he knew would keep him from harm and lead him to safety.

Watching this, I was reminded of Proverbs 3:5-6, which states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight." When we are in unsettling, nerve-racking, pant-wetting situations, we will naturally reach out to that in which we find comfort. But what is that for you? Just like this toddler gripping his father, knowing that he would keep him safe, do we go to our Heavenly Father, who has promised us safety, love, and good in our lives? All of us face situations where we need help, situations where we realize that our own strength and power are just not going to get the job done. Jesus has promised us that if we trust Him and forget about worrying, about what makes sense to us, then He will set our paths straight. And if I remember right, that straight path is the one that leads to eternal life. Turns out we don't have to do it all by ourselves after all.



# Sports

## Cross Country focuses on team performance

**Justin Pastoor**  
Sports Editor

After sending the men's team and now sophomore Renee Buikema to Vancouver, Washington for the National Championship last year, both the men and women's cross country teams look to expand on that success this season.

The women's team started off with a pre-season rank of 15th in the national poll. Since then, they have had a few strong races and have moved up two spots to number 13. While they don't seem to have a clear cut front runner, they boast one of the athletically deepest teams Coach Greg Van Dyke has had in his seven years of coaching.

"We have a lot of depth which is exciting because the focus is on team performance rather than individual successes," said

women's captain Merissa Harkema. "We have some strong packs to run in and can rely on each other for motivation and support. I feel that the cohesiveness and servant-attitude of the team this year is the best of any team I have been on."

The men's team gained some national attention as well as they were able to receive votes to be placed in the top 25. After putting in anywhere from 300-500 miles of running during the summer, the men are looking to make a strong end season push.

"Right now we're definitely in the 'building' stage. We're really pushing ourselves with hard workouts and high mileage," said men's captain Ryan Tholen. "Since we're at a different training stage, it's not so easy to see where we stack up against our competi-



tion. But we're looking to come on strong as the season progresses.

The main theme that both teams have really been trying to stress this year is the idea of teamwork, which might not be the first thing that comes to mind when talking about a running event. Support is going to be needed as they enter some

of the toughest training they have yet to face. Coach Van Dyke started off their season thinking about the passage Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many."

"As Christians, it's our calling to be servant-minded and servant-heart-

ed. Our focus is to serve each other as teammates and serve those we come in contact with throughout the season," said Van Dyke.

Both teams have the GPAC Championships on Nov. 3 at McCook Lake, South Dakota, and then hope to be running at the NAIA National Championships on Nov. 17.

## Athletic slate full for Alumni Weekend



**Jordan Harmelink**  
Staff Writer

As part of this weekend's Alumni Weekend festivities, football and volleyball are hosting significant conference home games. In addition, the lacrosse team will also be playing its first game of the year in its annual alumni game.

The sporting events begin with a football game 1:00 p.m. on Saturday as the Defenders look for their first win of the year against Briar Cliff. The Briar Cliff Chargers are also in search of its first victory of the season after dropping contests to Doane, Graceland University, Dakota Wesleyan and Hastings. Dordt looks to get on the winning side of things after dropping contests to Waldrof, Hastings, Midland, and Concordia.

Immediately following the football game, the lacrosse team will be playing its annual alumni game, pitting current players against past. Game time is set for 4:00 p.m. on the soccer field near the softball diamonds, just north of the football field.

At 5:00 p.m., the women's volleyball team takes on Doane in this season's first "black-out" match of the season. The Defender women have won their last six matches and look to continue that trend in an important conference match.

## Ask an Athlete



**Justin Pastoor**  
Sports Editor

**Name:** Loy Sahr

**Class Year:** Senior

**Major:** Elementary Education with an emphasis in middle school English and Science

**Sport(s) Involved:** Volleyball

**Position(s):** Middle Hitter

**Where are you from?** Sutton, Nebraska

**How did you first become involved in sports?** It all started with little league T-ball.

**Why did you come to Dordt?** I liked the small-town atmosphere and the people. Also, I grew up on a pig farm, so it always smells like home here.

**Strictly with sports, what's been the highlight of volleyball your four years?** Our trip to California last year for sure. There was a massive power outage while we were there, so we sat around in the dark, lit some candles, ate a lot of candy, and told stories. Staying in beach houses and going to Sea World was pretty cool too, I guess :).

**Favorite professor at Dordt and why?** Dr. Vander Plaats.

He's just like a grandpa to all his students.

**What is the first thing you would change at Dordt?** Lower tuition

**A word of advice to the freshmen?** Enjoy every minute. It goes so fast!

**What event in history would you go back in time to see?** The Old Testament story of Balaam and his talking donkey

**If your husband was a classic superhero, who would you want him to be?** SPIDERMAN

**What is the first thing you would do if you had no financial restrictions?** My husband and I sponsor three orphans in Ghana, Ethiopia, and Haiti. If I had no financial restrictions, I'd hop on a plane and adopt them all right now.

**What is the number 1 song played in your iTunes?** "The Saltwater Room" by Owl City. I was obsessed with it my freshman year.

**First movie quote that comes to your head:** "You is kind. You is smart. You is important." -from The Help

**Plans after Dordt?** I'll be moving to Bricelyn, Minnesota, where my husband will eventually take over his family's dairy farm. I'm hoping to find a teaching job somewhere in that area before he decides to put me to work milking cows for the rest of my life.



# Arts and Entertainment

## So you think you can dance? Students answer with a resounding "yes!"

**Hannah DeVries**  
Staff Writer

Students from Dordt will be joining their Northwestern teammates next week Thursday through Saturday as they participate in RUSH, one of the greatest dance events of the season. And not just because Dordt and Northwestern students are teaming together to perform.

RUSH is a student-run show that takes place at Northwestern College, featuring teams made of a mix of Dordt and Northwestern students. They will perform dances choreographed by Northwestern students that include a variety of genres, such as hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, lindy hop, modern, tribal, and musical theater.

Students audition at Northwestern a few weeks before the performance, and are put into specific groups doing specific dance styles according to their strengths. From there,

choreographers work with students on the pieces that will be performed the night of RUSH.

Senior Emily McFarland, a two-time participant in RUSH, described it as "a fun-packed showcase of talent, different genres of dance, and creativity, all rolled into a predominantly Northwestern production."

Alex Updike, a senior and criminal justice and psychology major, called it "a student-organized, student-produced, and student-led dance production which encourages participation from dancers of all ability levels."

One of the best parts of the show, participants will agree, is that you don't have to have any previous dance experience to join. "Even if you don't think you can dance, that's not an issue," Miguel Lanten, a senior, emphasized.

At the same time, learning a new style of dance with people you've never met can be intimidating. "It's been a chance for me to get outside

my comfort zone," said senior Sarah Kahanic. "At first it was a little intimidating trying out for a dance show at our rival college, but the students at Northwestern are very friendly and the choreographers are just happy to have more dancers they can work with."

At the end of the day, the dance itself isn't what participants remember the most. "The dancing was really fun, but what was even greater [were] the friendships that I developed," said Updike, who has participated in RUSH for two years. "Believe it or not, there ARE cool people at Northwestern, and to this day, I still hang out with some of the members of my first dance."

"The people in that dance became some of my very close friends that I still keep in touch with two years later," McFarland added.

Getting to know people along with a new dance was a highlight for Stephanie Black, agri-business major.



Photo by Anna Stadem

"I enjoyed getting to know people from Northwestern, and had a blast performing salsa with everyone else. All the other dancers were really fun to hang out with off stage and on."

"It's not about being perfect," said Kahanic. "Although you'd be amazed at how good the team can get in such a short time. It's about expressing yourself and having a great time dancing with other stu-

dents." Kahanic and Lanten will be performing the song "Feel Good Inc." by The Gorillaz, in a style that combines elements of krump, hip hop, and swing. Updike is dancing the lindy hop.

The performances are Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.; September 28 at 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.; and Saturday, September 29 at 4:00, 7:30, and 9:00 p.m.

## The Canons of Dordt are irresistibly graceful

**Alex Updike**  
Staff Writer

Dordt College is known for a variety of reasons. For instance, when one mentions Dordt, the idea of matrimony seems to automatically associate itself with our small marriage mill. Of course, one cannot look beyond Dordt's extreme Dutch-ness or habitually successful volleyball and basketball programs either. On the other hand, one involved in the arts may tend to ruminate on the 63 choirs we have available on campus. And among the throngs of these vocally superior rings, one group of delightfully original, yet still talented young men – *The Canons*.

*The Canons* are, according to leader Peter Kuipers, "men who enjoy singing and the camaraderie built through choir." "Too often," Kuipers told me, "guys tend to grow up with the assumption that singing is a girly thing to do simply because they don't see many older men singing (or they don't understand their vocal change)." But anyone who has heard a male choir

sing can surely attest to just how non-girly it truly is. "In all honesty," Kuipers stated, "the sound of a male choir is strong and powerful and pretty impressive."

Admittedly, by this point you still may not be convinced that joining *The Canons* is the "cool" thing to do. Sure, *The Canons*, according to Kuipers (as well as the lovely posters hanging around) can help any man woo the ladies gallivanting around campus, but it is truly more than that. Praising God, camaraderie, recreating works of art, and having fun are all, according to Kuipers, reasons for the existence of *The Canons*. This group of men, though, is more than just a group of random guys singing random songs for random reasons. *The Canons* is a way for Christian men to be in community with each other, praising God and using the talents given to them by Him to spread His word, be a light to others, and have fun while doing it. *The Canons* are doing their part to bring every square inch of Dordt's campus and community under the shin-

ing light of Christ.

Now, by this point, the extremely advanced rhetorical methods and seamless transitions between pathos and logos within this article have probably convinced each and every man out there to join *The Canons*. Well luckily for you, joining is as simple as showing up. *The Canons* meet on Wednesday nights at 9 p.m. in the choir room (MB116 behind the B.J. Haan), singing everything from hymns, to barbershop pieces, and, according to Kuipers, a potential arrangement of a pop song. Plus, I'm told that there is a membership gift for those who join. And if singing isn't your thing, you can simply enjoy *The Canons* as they participate in random acts of singing across campus, and, hopefully, show up at a future concert. So whether you enjoy listening to manly singing, or would never wish on anybody the pain of hearing yourself belt out the verses to "Amazing Grace," *The Canons* is a great chance to be in fellowship and community with a group of men on Dordt's campus.

## Heroes and villains battle for the stage



**Adam McDonald**  
Co-Editor

*In brightest day, in darkest night, no musical note shall escape their sight and let those who slept fear their might, beware their skills, pop concert night!*

With a nearly full house, The Dordt College Orchestra held their annual Pop's Concert on Friday, Sept. 21 with the theme "Heroes vs. Villains."

"Every year I always ask students to come up with ideas for the Pop's Concert. I take the suggestions and they vote on them," Assistant Professor of Music Bradley Miedema said. "There were two other themes that were very close: Video Games or Action Movies."

Every section only has three weeks to create their costumes and perfect the music. The actual preparation takes place toward the end of the previous school year when the students vote for the theme in the fall and start creating posters for the event.

"I thought all of the concepts were really fantastic this year, compared to other years," said senior Nathan Friend who per-

formed in the concert. "Personally, my favorite song was *Gladiator*."

Although his favorite hero's music, *Spiderman*, didn't get played in the concert, Miedema said he was very pleased with the students' performances.

"I'm always so pleased the students put so much of themselves into it," said Miedema. "Trying to do a concert three weeks into the school year could keep me up at night if I really thought about it, but they make it happen."

Typically, families with younger children "feel comfortable" bringing their kids to the concert because this concert's atmosphere isn't very "highbrow," according to Miedema.

When asked about his favorite music that was performed, Miedema said, "I like the music of *Lord of the Rings* because the music always represents something going on" and also enjoyed *The Incredibles* because "I just think that movie is hilarious."

The next concert is the Fall Festival on Friday, Oct. 19 during Parent's Weekend.

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## Feature Photo



## Editors' Note

We would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves as the current editors of the Dordt Diamond. We are Kelly Zatlin, Head Editor, and Adam McDonald, Co-Editor.

Our goal this year is to publish a newspaper that is informative and relevant to issues and events happening on campus. We also hope to become a paper that takes a step off Dordt's campus in order to localize major events taking place in God's world. Instead of simply clipping the Pizza Ranch coupon, stay for a while and learn what students and professors on campus are up to, what decisions administration make, and what affects you directly as students, on a national and local level. We appreciate feedback, so don't be shy; shoot us an e-mail at [diamond@dordt.edu](mailto:diamond@dordt.edu). If there is a campus topic or issue you would like us to report on, let us know so that we can inform you to the best of our ability.

As an announcement, please take note that we failed to include Brett Leyendekker on the "New Staff List" that was on the third page of our previous *Diamond* issue. Mr. Leyendekker was hired on this fall as the Assistant for Student Services, Tech Services, and Computer Services. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion.

Also, please take time to visit our newly-launched, online newspaper at [www.dordtdiamond.wordpress.com](http://www.dordtdiamond.wordpress.com).

Thank you for supporting *The Diamond* and the staff of this bi-weekly publication.

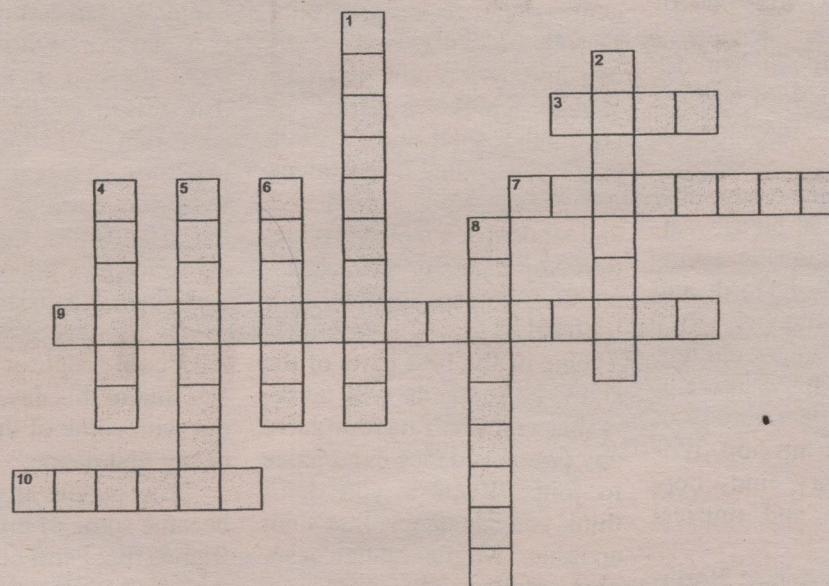
Your editors,

Kelly and Adam

## Dordt College Crossword Puzzle:

Compiled by Adam McDonald, Co-Editor

Take a moment to fill out our new crossword puzzle feature! If you've been here for a while, it should be fairly easy for you. Have fun!



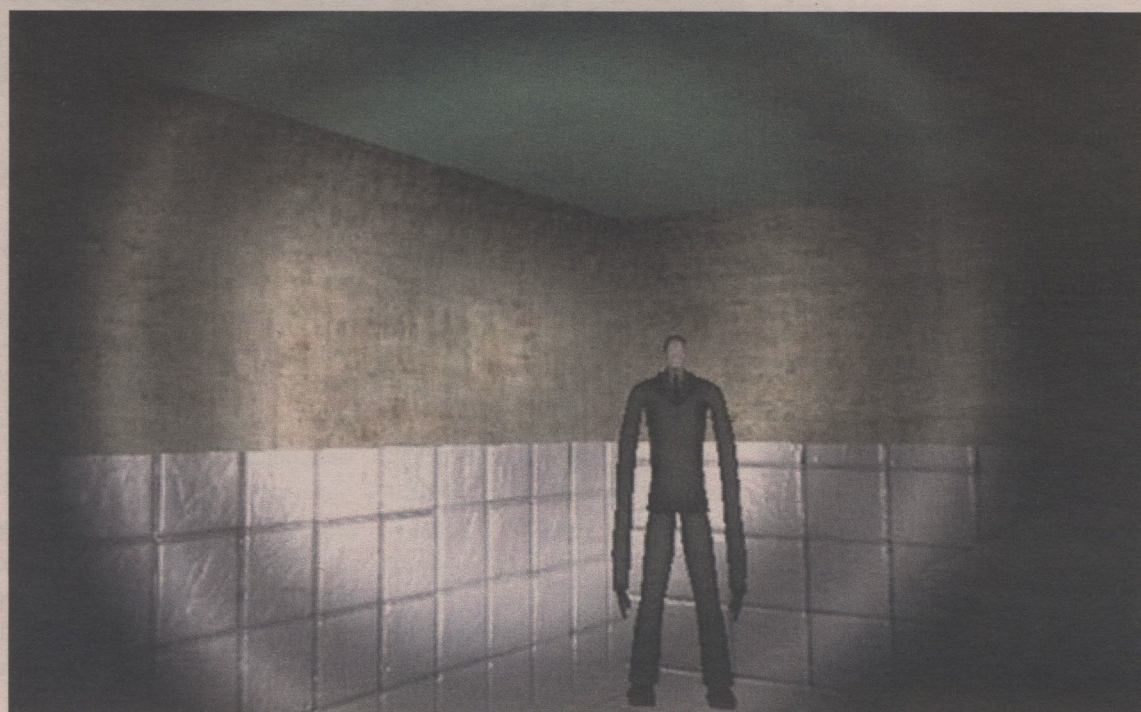
## ACROSS

- 3.) The naked statue  
7.) The last name of the new president  
9.) The Blades rink location  
10.) The newest residential building

## DOWN

- 1.) The unofficial sport of Dordt  
2.) The best place to take a Dordt Walk  
4.) The food hub  
5. Don't date before  
6. The most recently retired English professor  
8.) The new Denis

## Slender Review: The scariest video game ever created

Adam McDonald  
Co-Editor

Imagine yourself lost in a small fenced-in area. You have no weapons and only a flashlight with a slowly dying battery. You wander about aimlessly looking for a way out when you spot a small piece of paper that says, "You can't run." Curious, you grab it and stuff it in your pocket only to be

greeted by the sound of a faint heartbeat getting closer and closer. There is a faceless man hunting you down for treading where he slumbers, and he wants nothing short of your soul.

This is the plot of "Slender," the scariest video game ever created. The premise of the game is to collect 8 pieces of paper before the "Slenderman"

can find you. It sounds silly and juvenile. What's the scariest part? It's not the music. It's not his elongated arms. It's not even his face, which is terrifying.

It's the static.

When Slenderman is near you, the screen begins to go fuzz, distorting the environment and blocking your view. It's in this moment that you realize

he can be anywhere. If you search for him, you'll find him and you'll wish you hadn't.

The game, created by the gaming company *AgentParsec*, has received positive reviews, especially by IGN. IGN (Imagine Games Network) stated, "few horror games thrust you directly into the heart of fear."

Senior Nathan Scripps shared my fears, stating, "This game is absolutely terrifying. I've watched tons of Youtube videos of people playing, but every

time I thought 'It can't be that bad,' and when I played it for the first time, I finally understood why everyone screamed."

Here is the best part. The game is free. It's released in the public domain so all you have to do is Google "slender download" and thrust yourself into the depths of terror. I did.

And I'm still shaking.



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